

## THE COMPETITION FOR DRAINAGE OF LONDON.

PERMIT me to ask as a favour that you will insert, in juxtaposition, the following extracts from Mr. Frank Forster's report on his plan for draining the southern portion of the metropolis, with some from one of the 116 plans submitted to the commissioners of sewers in September last. I am desirous to enable the public to attach a proper value to the assertion of Mr. Forster, "that he has derived no practical assistance from any of the plans;" and also to render transparent the injustice which the commissioners are practising upon a great portion of the 116 competitors by allowing their ideas to be "used up" by their princely-paid servant, without remunerating them, or forwarding them even an empty hope.

The plan extracted from 19 out of 48 out of the 116; being the greatest number that agreed upon any one principle of drainage. Amongst these forty-six, it is not altogether unreasonable to suppose that the whole "material" for Mr. Frank Forster's plan has been supplied, when it is seen in how many essential points his plan agrees with only one out of the forty-six; and when it is remembered that the committee on the competition plans reported themselves to have "carefully examined and considered the whole of the plans and suggestions" submitted to the commissioners.

I shall preface the extracts by explaining that the main feature of Mr. Frank Forster's plan is, in principle, identical with that of the forty-six plans above alluded to;—viz., "An inland tunnel (or main sewer) running, in a parallel direction, to a reservoir in the marshes below London, and discharging sewage, not required for manure, into the river below tidal influence."

## Mr. Frank Forster's Report.

"It is proposed to form a double reservoir, capable of holding at least twenty-four hours' drainage.

Reservoir to discharge the contents of high water, delivering them by means of pipes near the middle and at the bottom of the river.

The sewerage will be lifted into the reservoir by means of an engine from the main sewer.

And (I propose) to connect with the chimney of the engine, consuming furnace of the engine, all the passages from which any gases could escape from the sewer.

It is not proposed that the engines should have to raise all the storm-water or land-floods; these will be provided for in extraordinary cases by the four existing outlets."

These extracts will, I think, fully establish the strong similarity in principle, and I doubt not that, if the remaining forty-five plans could be compared with Mr. Frank Forster's, the whole tale would be told. I do not mean to imply that Mr. Frank Forster has no original ideas of his own; but I do assert and maintain that in this case it would have been only just to competitors, as well as graceful to the Commissioners of Sewers and their chief engineer, to have acknowledged that their plan, though it may have been original, is not novel, being already embodied in the forty-six plans alluded to as "carefully examined and considered" by them.

Several other competitors have sent similar statements: amongst them Messrs. Dredge

and Stephenson put the following in juxtaposition:—

August 24, 1849.—"We propose: The sewer to be divided into sections, each having a sufficient inclination to generate a stated velocity, this inclination being obtained by lifts at certain stations, where the sewerage will be pumped up by steam power in a closed shaft.

"The separation of the sewage from the surface water.

October 12, 1849.—"Running a main outfall sewer along the line of the Grand Surrey Canal, and having an engine station near Deptford, where the sewerage will be pumped over the surrounding country, or pumped through a pipe into the river below Greenwich marshes."

Mr. Frank Forster (August 1, 1850), says,—"I have adopted the following principles for my guidance:—To maintain a continual and unintermitting flow, with the aid of lifts where necessary, in all the sewers along their whole length, by which the evils arising from putrid stagnation may be avoided. To construct the sewers with inclinations so proportioned to the volume of fluid to be carried off by each, that the velocity of the current shall keep them clear of deposit. This lift and shaft system to place completely under cover.

"To provide a natural escape, by the power of gravity alone, for rain waters and land floods, independent of the ordinary sewage."

"I have to recommend the line of Woolwich Road as the point for delivering the sewage into the river. The course of the main sewer will be along Greenwich marshes, Trafalgar-road, to the Ravensbourn, across Union-street and Collier-street, where the south main line diverges. This continues by Loring Edward's lane, along the Old Kent-road, to Surrey Canal bridge, along Albany-street, in a straight line across to St. Mark's-road, and by Camberwell New-road to St. Mark's Church, Kennington."

## ARCHITECTURE AND BUILDING IN IRELAND.

THE contract for plastering and decorating the interior of High-street Chapel, Dublin, was some time since disposed of to Mr. Buckley for 1,000*l.*: the plan of building is a Greek cross. Mr. Patrick Byrne, architect to the city, is superintending the execution of the work; portion of the ceiling over altar is completely finished.—The Poor Law Commissioners are about building union workhouses at Mitchelstown, county Cork, and at Portumna, county Galway, according to drawings by their architect, Mr. George Watkins.—The Board of Guardians of the Dunabaughlin Union have advertised for proposals for the erection of a school-room and dormitory for the female workhouse children.—The board of superintendence of City Prisons, Dublin, are about erecting a new call-hall, consultation-room, stores, &c., at George's-gate Penitentiary, and propose remodelling the present inconvenient chapel, and erecting a new altar therein, plans having been submitted for same by the board's architect, Mr. J. S. Mulvany.—The Board of Public Works propose erecting a new kitchen, bath, fumigating, and reception-rooms, instead of those belonging to the city department, adjacent to the laundry, and which are to be given up to their use by the board of superintendence.

A valuable application of Mr. Forsyth's well-known Heracles to the purposes of a swivel bridge, has just been completed by Mr. Barry D. Gibbons, civil engineer to Kingstown Harbour Commissioners. It has fifty feet open, one end turning upon a centre and revolving upon a circular railway; its weight is upwards of twenty tons, and so well poised and adjusted that a power of 200 pounds freely moves it.—The Grand Canal Company, by adopting this plan, might, at a small expense, remove the greatest nuisance in or near Dublin—Kingsend-draw-bridge.

The late Right Rev. Dr. Fleming, Bishop of Newfoundland, bequeathed in his will the sum of 500*l.* towards the completion of the convent

of St. John's, Newfoundland, plans, &c., for which have been furnished by Mr. Mulvany. He also left the sum of 1,000*l.* for a figure of a "dead Christ," to be made by Hogan, the Irish sculptor, and placed in the Cathedral of St. John, Newfoundland.

The O'Loughlin Testimonial has been placed, during the past week, in the large entrance hall of the new Court-house, Ennis. The statue is eight feet high, and represents Sir Michael in his judicial chair, draped in full dress costume of Master of the Rolls: it is placed on a pedestal five feet high, at the corner of which stand two female figures representing "Justice and Mercy." Mr. Joseph H. H., sculptor. Cost, 1,500*l.*

On Friday week an order arrived from the commissioners for completing the Cork and Brandon Railway, Messrs. Fox, Henderson, and Co., to the sub-contractor, Mr. Brown, directing the immediate suspension of the works, and 300 men were thrown idle. It is stated by the directors that the stoppage of the works was resorted to by the contractors to secure the directors not to issue debentures to other parties than the contractors, the borrowing powers of the company being limited to 50,000*l.* Of this sum the Exchequer Loan Commissioners are to advance 35,000*l.*, of which the contractors are now entitled to 10,000*l.*, having certificates for the execution of 15,000*l.* worth of work, besides being shortly entitled to 10,000*l.* more; additional works, to the amount of nearly 22,000*l.* more, being executed. The directors state that the contractors are bound by their deed of contract to complete the line within the specified time, and upon failure thereof, that they are empowered to void the contract and complete the works themselves.

The sum of 342*l.* which has been collected by subscription in Dublin towards the erection of a monument to O'Connell, has been appropriated to the decoration of a stained glass window in the Rev. F. Matthew's new chapel.—The managing committee of the Mendicity Institution have advertised for designs for appropriating a portion of the present buildings to bath and wash-houses for the use of the poor, and have offered a premium of five guineas for the best plan.—A member of the profession has offered his services gratuitously to the Dublin Mechanics' Institute for the decoration of their theatre, and the erection of additional class-rooms.—The entire of one side of Park-street, Dublin, has been recently pulled down, for the purpose of erecting a new terrace thereon, by order of the Hon. Sidney Herbert, upon whose property the improvements are contemplated.—The Earl of Erne is about erecting a new butter market on his estate at Lisnaska. The style is Tudor Gothic.

## STAINED GLASS.

St. Matthew's, Bank Foot, Bradford.—In the new church of St. Matthew's, Bank Foot, at Bradford, Yorkshire, the east window of the chancel has been fitted with stained glass, the work of Messrs. Barnett and Sons, of York, of which our correspondent speaks well. The window is in the Decorated style, and consists of three lights with flowing tracery in the head. In the centre light is a representation of the crucifixion, with the Magdalen at the foot of the cross. Above the head of the Saviour are the letters I.N.R.I., and on either side a pater bearing the legend "Bibite ex hoc omnes," and the sacramental cup. In the left hand, or north light, is a figure of St. Matthew, the patron saint of the church, with an open volume, and a scroll, on which is inscribed "Liber Generationis Jesu Christi," and in the contrary light a figure of St. Thomas, bearing the evangelist symbol of a square rule, and a scroll inscribed with "Beati sunt qui non viderunt et crediderunt." This last saint has been introduced, the window being a tribute of affection from Mr. E. B. Wheatley, of Mirfield, to the memory of a parent. It is due to the donor of this window to state, that by his noble generosity he has laid his fellow churchmen under another tie of gratitude, in addition to many, the fruit of former years, and we hope he may live long to witness the happy results of Christian liberality so holy and so free. The architects were Messrs. Mallinson and Healy.